

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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1. Between 3 and 11 October 1950 there were joint exercises between a unit of the Red Army and a selected composite unit of the alert police. The exercises were held from 3 to 5 October in K8then/An'halt and from 6 to 11 October in the village of Br8sgen, near Dresden.
2. Among the 120 selected German policemen, there were eight members of the VP Bereitschaft, Berlin - Trertow. The Russian unit consisted of a battalion from a Guards' Rifle Division, who spoke no German.

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- a. "In Kötten [redacted] the training area of the Red Army where the exercises began immediately. They consisted of the usual infantry attack and defense, approach and attack on sentries, etc.
- b. "During the night from 5 to 6 October [redacted] drove with trucks and three batteries each of 8.8, 10.5, and 15.0 and 18.0 cm guns to Brösgen. [redacted] three new Soviet "Panzer" which occasionally reached a road-speed of 70 to 80 kms per hour. However, the speed was attained only on straight stretches of the road and only with a very loud, whining engine noise. The new Panzers were then demonstrated in Brösgen and proved to be invulnerable.
- c. "The new Panzer has a triangular form from the front as well as from the sides. It has far-reaching armor protection over the treads. The armor consists of a new steel-alloy which shows no riveting. It seems weaker than the armor of the Stalin or Sherman tank. The new Panzer has a width of from 3 to 4 meters (estimate), a height of about 3 meters, and is somewhat longer than the German Königstiger. The name of the new Panzer was not mentioned. It was said that it represented an experimental model, mass production of which will commence shortly. The Panzer had a remarkable long gun barrel with a large muzzle brake. It was mentioned that it could be utilized as tank destroyer. The turret cannot revolve and the barrel can be moved vertically only.
- d. "The Panzer is armed with an 88 mm gun, and machine guns in the front and rear. It has a six-man crew consisting of the commander, 2 machine gunners, 2 runners, and the driver.

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- a. "The German policemen were called upon by five Russian officers to test the safety features of the new Panzer. However, there were no volunteers to test the armor under actual fire. Thereupon the five Russian officers entered the Panzer which was then fired at while stationary and in motion. During the days of exercises the Panzer was fired upon by the following weapons:

88 mm shells, with explosive and then with armor-piercing shells from a distance of 200 meters. No effect.

10.5 cm shells, with explosive and then with armor-piercing ammunition, from a distance of 200 meters. No effect. The shells bounced off the triangular form of the Panzer.

15 cm shells, fired from a distance of 600 meters, were likewise without effect.

Various Soviet explosive charges were tested from a distance of 250 and 300 meters; they had no effect. In subsequent exercises we shot at a Königstiger and a Sherman tank: two hits resulted in fires, and a third in total destruction.

18 cm shells, fired from a distance of 1,000 meters, with armor-piercing, contact-fuse and delayed-action fuse shells were without effect, even when fired at the armor from the front and at a right angle. After direct hits only scratches in a depth of 1 to 2 mm could be seen.

A bazooka fired from a distance of 20 meters also produced no results.

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New Soviet armor-piercing shells which had no results on the new Panzer, led to the total destruction on the Königstiger, a Sherman, an unnamed British, and an old 72-ton French tank."

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